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Lib. Mines - Indian Mines Rel. Working

Review for 1949 - Recorded with Remarks.

Paper recorded

Government of Madras.
Development Dept.

G.O. No.44, 4th January 1951

Mines - Mining - Indian Mines Act - Working - Review for 1949 - Recorded with remarks.

READ the following papers:-

I.

G.O. No. 4802, Development dated 26th September 1949.

II

Letter from the Director of Industries & Commerce, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated 7th November 1950, No. 745-A1/50.

(Mines - Indian Mines Act - Working during 1949 - Review, REFERENCE.-Government Memorandum No. 34686-J/50-1, Development, dated 25th April, 1950, and Memorandum, dated 12th June 1950).

I submit below my review of the working of the Indian Mines Act in this State during 1949 based on the reports and returns received from the District Collectors.

2. During the year under review mining operations were conducted in the following districts and the minerals produced are indicated against each:--

Anantapur:	Barytes, calcite, steatite and limestone.
Bellary:	Red oxide of iron.
Cuddapah:	Barytes, asbestos and china clay.
Kurnool:	Barytes, yellow ochre and slate stone.
Chittoor:	Gold.
Nellore:	Gypsum, kyanite, felspar, steatite, limeshell and mica.
Guntur:	Stones.
Krishna:	Chromite and stones.
East Godavari:	Graptite.
Visakhapatnam:	Manganese.
Chingleput:	Stone.
Tiruchirapalli:	Gypsum, phosphatic nodules and limestone.
Malabar:	China clay.
Salem:	Magnesite, bauxite and corundum.
Nilgiris:	Mica.
Coimbatore:	Limestone.

A few important mines that worked during the year and the minerals produced are also mentioned below:--

1 Messrs South Kolar Gold Mines, Limited, Narayana Nagar in Chittoor district..	Gold.
2 Messrs Associated Cement Company, Limited, Madukkarai, Coimbatore District ..	Limestone.
3 Messrs Magnesite Syndicate, Ltd., Salem.	Magnesite.
4.Messrs Salem Magnesite, Limited.	
5. Messrs Kanjanur Mines worked by Sri T. Rajaratnam Chettiar, Bangalore.	
6. Messrs V.A. Nimbkar of Bombay (Mines at Periasoragai);	
7. Messrs Magnesite Corporation of India Ltd., Tiruchirapalli (Mines at Chitti Chevadi Jagir)	

8. Messrs Shevaroys' Bauxite Products Company, Limited, Yercaud:	Bauxite.
9. Messrs V. Nimbkar of Bombay (Mines at Sithampudi):	Corundum.
10. Messrs New Hope Mines, Nilgiris Dt. 11. Messrs Gopalakrishna Mica Mines, Nilgiris. 12. Messrs Laxmikumara Mica Mines, Nilgiris. 13. Messrs Sankara Mica Mines, Nilgiris.	Mica.
14. Messrs The Tiffin Barytes, Asbestos and Paints, Limited, Madras, in Bellary District.	
15. Messrs V. Nimbkar of Bombay in Bellary District.	Red oxide of iron.
16. Messrs G.S. Muniappa Rao Durga Mines, Anantapur, in Bellary district.	
17. Messrs The Trichy Nodules Mines, Tiruchirapalli:	
18. Messrs The Trichy Mining Works, Limited, Tiruchirapalli:	
19. Messrs T.S.S. Sankara Iyer, Tiruchirapalli:	Gypsum and phosphatic nodules.
20. Messrs The Tiruchirapalli Chemical Laboratories, Limited. Tiruchirapalli:	
21. Messrs Dalmia Cement Company, Limited:	Gypsum and limestone.
22. Messrs The Krishnappa Asbestos and Barytes, Ltd., Cuddapah:	Asbestos and barytes
23. Messrs The Tiffin Barytes, Asbestos and Paints, Ltd., Cuddapah.	
24. Messrs The East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories, Limited, Madras (for mines at Cuddapah):	China clay.
25. Sri ... Seth Srira Durga Prasad and Sri Seth Pitchan Narsing Doss (owners of Kodur, Kurud, Vagmal and Kodur Extension Mines) Chipurupalle taluk, Visakhapatnam District ..	Manganese.

3. The Sheervalli magnesite mines, Salem (The Tirupati Mining Syndicate, Limited, Madras), [illegible] the only mica mine in Madurai district, [illegible] and two mines in the Nilgiri district did not work during the year.

china clay in the districts of Nellore and Cuddapah were 799 tons and tons 881-12-1-0 as against 1,267 tons and tons 1,261-15-1-10 respectively, while there was no production in Nellore district as against a production of 20 tons in 1948. A quantity of 2,103 tons and 43,76[illegible] tons of gypsum was produced in Nellore and Tiruchirapalli districts during 1949 as against 895 tons and 26,936 tons during 1948 respectively. There was an increase in the production of mica during this year also. Nellore produced 533 tons of dressed mica and 2,846 tons 484 lb. of mica in waste rounds fit for splittings in 1949 as against 640 tons 973 lb. and 1,518 tons 315 lb. respectively in 1948, the Nilgiris 14,720 lb. of dressed mica and 49,635 lb. of mica in flimsy and waste in 1949 as against 12,229 lb. and 9,659 lb. respectively in 1948. The only mica mine in Madurai district did not work during 1949 also. The output of steatite in Nellore and Anantapur was 17,250 seers and 5,542 tons as against 16,742 seers and 24,407 tons during the previous year respectively. The production of limestone in the districts of Tiruchirappalli, Anantapur and Coimbatore was 126,752 tons, 1,800 tons 289,356 tons as against 113,725 tons, nil, 234,156 tons during 1948 respectively. No yellow ochre was produced in Nellore district while there was an output of 846 tons in Kurnool district as against 765 tons during last year. There was an output of 76½ tons of asbestos in Cuddapah district while there was no output during the year 1948. In Salem district there was a decrease in the output of bauxite from 1,492 tons 55 lb. during 1948 to 1,471 tons during the year 1949. While there was no report of production of calcite in Anantapur district since 1946, an output of 1,558 tons during 1949 has been reported. Five tons of corundum was produced in Salem district during the year 1949. There was no output of felspar in Tiruchirappalli during this year also. 46.6 ounces of gold valued Rs 15,421/14/6 was extracted during this year in Chittoor district while these mines did not work during 1948. There was an output of 788 tons of chromite in the Krishna district during the year 1949 while there was an output of 5 units during the year 1948.

In East Godavari district, 10 tons of graphite was produced during 1949 as against 50½ tons produced in 1948. It has been reported that 100 tons of kyanite was produced in Nellore district during 1949. The production of magnesite increased from 47,256 tons 5 cwt. during 1948 to 86,506 tons 15 cwt. during 1949. The output of manganese in Visakhapatnam district during 1949, was 12,957 tons as against 11,339 tons during 1948. The output of phosphatic nodules in the district of Tiruchirapalli decreased from 1,114 tons during 1948 to 589 tons during 1949. In Nellore district, 83¾ tons of limeshell was produced during 1949 as against 2,298¾ tons during 1948, and there was no output of quartz during this year while 100 tons were produced during 1948 in the district. Kurnool produced 353 tons of slate stone during the year 1949, as against 302 tons during the previous year.

5. INSPECTION OF MINES: The inspection of mines by the various officers are as follows:--

TIRUNELVELI: Chief Electrical Inspector of Mines Regarding electrical installations at the stone quarries.

SALEM.-- District Health Officer, Revenue Divisional Officer, Salem, Tahsildars. Salem and Omalur, Deputy Tahsildar, Mettur.

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NILGIRIS: Health staff and officers of the Mines Department.

NELLORE: District Health Officer, Nellore, District Collector, Mica Inspector, Assistant Mica Inspectors of the mica executive staff

CHINGLEPUT: Revenue Department officers.

ANANTAPUR: District Health Officer and Mine Inspectors.

VISAKHAPATNAM: Didstrict Health Officer.

GUNTUR: Tahsildar, Palnad.

No report of inspection has been reported in the districts of Chittoor, Malabar, Bellary, East Godavari, Krishna, Tiruchirappalli and Cuddapah. The Collectors of Coimbatore and Kurnool have reported that the mines were not inspected during the year.

6. SUPPLY OF LABOUR:

Labour was generally adequate except in the district of East Godavari where it has been reported that the prospecting was not efficient due to inefficient labour. As already reported in the review for 1948 in Nellore district during this year also skilled labour was not engaged; the majority of miners did not work on scientific lines. It is also reported that there was dearth of labour in Nellore and Tirunelveli districts only in harvest season. Most of the labour employed were local people and from neighbouring villages.

7. A statement showing the average number of persons employed in the mines in each of the districts and the average rate of wages paid to them is annexed (Annexure I).

8. RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND THE WORKERS:

During the year under report in most of the districts the relations between the employers and workers were generally cordial except in the district of Chingleput. In this district, while there was no trouble with the labourers working in the Port Trust Quarries, it has been reported that there was a peaceful strike in the Corporation of Madras Stone Quarries, Pallavaram, at the end of December 1949 due to retrenchment and reduction of working hours which was subsequently settled when the labourers agreed for four days' work in the week with usual privileges including sub-day wages and daily allowance. The Mica Labourers' Association, Gudur, Nellore district, expressed their grievances to the Chairman, Mica Labour Welfare Committee, Nellore, and necessary care is being taken in this regard by the Welfare Committee. It has been reported that the Tahsildars and the mica executive staff were instructed to fix wages to the labourers in accordance with the rules contained in Industrial Disputes Act

9. GENERAL HEALTH OF WORKERS:

The general health conditions in all the districts were reported to be fair and satisfactory except in the district of Nellore, where there were a few cases of cholera which was brought under control by the Health staff. There were also cases of malaria, rampant in the mining area, which broke out in the form of an epidemic in the latter part of the year. The Mica Labour Welfare Committee opened three dispensaries

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at Sydapuram, Kallichedu and Talupuru where about 100 patients were treated. The Committee also sent Anti-Malarial unit to the mining area to check the disease. The medical institutions and the Committee were supplied with medicines, drugs and D.D.T. Emulsion. It is also reported that the District Collector sent a mobile unit of Regional Malarial Organization to the affected areas during November 1949 who sprayed D.D.T. In the district of Tirunelveli, the company obtained the services of the Honorary Assistant Surgeon to safeguard the health of the labourers. In Salem Messrs Magnesite Syndicate, Ltd., Salem Junction, appointed a full-time Medical Officer. The Trichy Mining Works, Ltd., Tiruchirappalli, were equipped with medicine, bandage, plaster, etc.

In the Madras Port Trust Quarries, Pallavaram, a first aid kit was placed in charge of qualified person. A rest-house and a creche were also provided. The dispensary attached to Corporation Stone Quarry at Pallavaram, Madras, is in charge of a qualified Medical Officer. A creche was attached to the dispensary in charge of an ayah. Milk was also distributed to the children of the labourers.

10. SANITATION AND HOUSING ACCOMMODATION:- Firstaid arrangements were made in Tirunelveli district and a qualified compounder was made available in cases of emergencies. The arrangements with regard to lavatory, water, etc., were convenient both for female and male coolies. Some of the labourers were coming from neighbouring villages and some were living in the sheds provided by the company. In Salem district separate latrine arrangements were made for males and females while no accommodation was provided as all labourers came from neighbouring villages only. In the district of the Nilgiris some of the workers were provided with huts and it is reported that these huts require repairs and their sanitary conditions are poor. The lessees of the mines in Bellary district have been advised to put up temporary sheds to each latrine and a pathway to the workspot. It has been reported that there was no improvement in the housing facilities for the workers in the Nellore district during the year, and that the Mica Labour Welfare Committee is understood to be examining schemes of housing to the mica labourers. Water-supply was made in cement cisterns and the Committee is arranging to sink three wells in the mining area. Ordinary and bore-hole types of latrines were provided. Ventilation in the mines is not generally satisfactory. The mica executive staff and the Junior Inspector of Mines, Seetharampur have advised mine owners to improve the condition and open second outlet wherever necessary. It is also expected that the Thermal scheme which is in progress will improve the condition. First-aid equipments were available in all mines and attended to by qualified persons. Major injuries were treated at the hospital at Gudur, Nellore and Podalakur and the hospitals started by the Mica Labour Welfare Committee. The Maternity Benefit Act has been enforced at all the mines and is being supervised by an officer of the Government of India, Mines Department. The maternity hospitals at Sydapuram, Utukur, Kallichedu and Talupuru, started by the Mica Labour Welfare Committee were in charge of qualified midwives and worked satisfactorily during the year under report. As the labourers in the mines of Chandrapur district were not willing to stay at work spots during nights, it is reported that need for accommodating them was not felt. Sanitary arrangements were made as per the directions of the District Health Officer. The workers of the limestone quarries in Tiruchirappalli district were provided with comfortable sha

i with electric lights and drinking water facilities. With regard to the Corporation of Madras Stone Quarries, Pallavaram, the Collector of Chingleput has reported that the roofing and flooring of the rest-houses is bad. This should be renewed. Further, a huge dust is reported to emanate from the stone crushing plant established at the quarries which would not only affect the health of labourers at work but also the residents north of the Railway lines. The Medical Officer also seem to be in agreement with this opinion and it has been finally suggested that the matter should be taken up by the Corporation of Madras for rectification immediately. In the mines in the Cuddapah district, sheds were provided for rest and midday meal.

11. PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS, CLOTHING, ETC.-
Generally in almost all the districts, the labourers had their own arrangements for the purchase of foodstuffs, either from ration shops or shandis. In Salem, Messrs Magnesite Syndicate, Limited, are themselves running a grainshop for the benefit of their labourers. A cooperative stores was run for the workers of Pallavaram Stone Quarries. Two sets of clothing were given free by Corporation of Madras. On the Independence Day in August 1949, free supply of clothing was made to the labourers working in the Port Trust Stone Quarries. It is observed from the report of the Collector of East Godavari that the labourers proved inefficient in their work for want of enough food supplies.

12. EDUCATION:
A Higher Elementary School was run by the management of the Associated Cement Company, Limited Coimbatore District. There is also a school for girls. Two day-schools were started by the Mica Labour Welfare Committee in the Nellore district with free supply of books, slates, lighting and cloth, Messrs Dalmia Cement Company, Ltd., Tiruchirapalli, conducted a free school for the children of the labourers.

13. LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AND ITS CONTROL:
This question does not arise due to prohibi

14. ACCIDENTS:
There were not accidents, except in the districts of Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Nellore, Chingleput and Cuddapah.

There was a single accident in Tirunelveli due to explosion, injuring four men of the contractors at the quarry. Steps were taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents. In Coimbatore district, six serious accidents were reported in which six persons were injured. There was no loss of life. Eight accidents occurred in Nellore district in which two labourers died and fourteen others were injured. All the cases were enquired into and steps are being taken to pay compensation to victims. In the Corporation of Madras Stone Quarries at Pallavaram 268 accidents (major two and minor 266) were reported. But none was fatal. In the Port Trust Quarries, ten petty accidents were reported. There was a fatal accident of a female coolie in Cuddapah district and action is being taken for payment of compensation.

15. CRIME AND MORAL CONDITIONS:
There is nothing special to report under this heading during the year except in Nellore and Chingleput. The morality of labour class did not improve much in Nellore district. Smuggling of mica and major thefts were occasionally brought to notice. Due to the introduction of prohibition the labourers who were formerly addicted to drinking seem to be having a life and the economic condition has

In Palvoram [illegible] district. ... case of assault ... superintendent of ... occurred on 1st September 1945. The accused ... case was fined and thirteen others were dealt with departmentally.

16. PROSECUTION TO OFFENCE.

There were no prosecutions during the year except in Nellore district. A prosecution in Nellore district was launched against the managers and blasting mistries in four mines in connexion with the accidents and cases are pending in the Court. A case was launched against the manager and the blasting mistry of the Rajmaheswari Mica Mine, Patraganta, for allowing female coolies in the underground on 15th June 1949. They were tried by the Subdivisional Magistrate, Gudur, and were fined Rs.50 each.

17. GENERAL: The Mining Surveyor and his staff, appointed at the end of 1944, continued throughout the year.

18. Thirty thousand one hundred and fifty-two lb. of country gun powder and 3,500 ft. of fuse were used during the year in the magnesite mines at Salem Junction and Chitti Chvadi Jagir. In Tiruchirappalli district, 34,201 lb. of gun powder and 4,458 fuses of detonators were used.

There is one depot at Gudur for the whole of Nellore district which supplied explosives to the miners. There are no complaints about the supply from the mica miners. It has been reported by the Collector of Nellore this year also, that the mica executive staff have no control over the mica produced in the non-royalty areas, where there is every possibility of some of the mica produced in royalty areas being smuggled into non-royalty areas to evade taxation. He has reported that measures to prevent this malpractice are being dealt with separately. It is observed that persons who were granted certificates of approval in the Chittoor district does not seem to have commenced operation this year also. The inspection of mines appears to have slightly improved this year. Supply of labour continued to be good. General health of labour was satisfactory, except in Nellore district.

Annexure I and Annexure II are statements.
These statements will be supplied on request.

...ecorded.

2. I ... observed that none of the mines in the districts of Coimbatore and Kurnool were ... during the year. On examining the reports of inspection, if any, of the mines in the districts of Chittoor, Malabar, Salem, East Godavari, Anantapur, Tiruchirapalli and Cuddapah were received by the Director of Industries and Commerce. The Government desire that the mines should be inspected at least once in a year by the Revenue or the Health staff, so that the defects, if any, noticed may be set right in time.

3. ... the attention of the Collectors of the Nilgiris and Nellore and of the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, is invited to the remarks of the Director of Industries & Commerce under the head "Sanitation and housing accommodation". They are requested to take necessary action to rectify the defects pointed out by the Director of Industries and Commerce.

4. ... with reference to the general remarks regarding the smuggling of mica, the Director of Industries & Commerce is informed that the Government have under consideration a proposal to introduce legislation for controlling the movement of and trading in mica, on the lines of the system which is in vogue in Bihar.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor).

...S. Viswanatha Ayyar,
Secretary to Government.

To
The Collectors of Chittoor, Malabar, etc.